

64



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,566	08/13/2001	Yukihiro Matsukawa	1692-011111	7158

28289 7590 08/24/2005

THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

HANSEN, COLBY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/928,566

Applicant(s)

MATSUKAWA, YUKIHIRO

Examiner

Colby Hansen

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, and 5, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Pat. 2-14921, in view of German Pat. 743560, and further in view of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A.

Japanese Pat. 2-14921 discloses a dividing head comprising a circular table (exposed outer portion of 1 as seen in figure 3) attached to a worm wheel shaft, said worm wheel shaft having at least one worm wheel assembled thereon (fig. 5), a worm with a drive shaft, said shaft supported by thrust bearings 5 on a frame.

However, Japanese Pat. 2-14921 does not disclose the worm bodies being adjustable or the worm teeth formed such that the thickness dimension of said teeth gradually increases in the direction of the rotation axis of a drive shaft.

German Pat. 743560 discloses a hollow body;
a drive shaft 1 fitted into a hollow portion of said body, said body being able to rotate relative to said drive shaft and able to move in the axial direction relative to said drive shaft, and an assembler (fig. 1) having an annular portion which is coaxial with said drive shaft to couple both by frictional engagement;

Art Unit: 3682

said assembler includes a cylinder which forms said annular portion, the cylinder being disposed between said body and said drive shaft, having a fluid reservoir in an interior of the cylinder, and being expandable with the outer periphery and the inner periphery of said cylinder displaced outwardly and inwardly in the radial direction by the pressure of the reservoir fluid (fig. 1);

a flange 14 integrally following one end of said cylinder and having a screw hole (around part 14) connected to said reservoir;

and a screw member 13 screwable into said screw hole; and

wherein said body has a fitting hole for receiving said cylinder, the fitting hole having a larger diameter than that of said drive shaft in an axial position corresponding to said body's outer circumference (fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the coupling and uncoupling means of German Pat. 743560 on all of the worm bodies within worm gear assembly of Japanese Pat. 2-14921, so as allow for general uncoupling and uncoupling of torque transmitting elements as well as adjustment upon the shaft.

Furthermore, Japanese Pat. 411020723 A discloses a worm with teeth formed such that the thickness dimension of said teeth gradually increases in the direction of the rotation axis of a drive shaft.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the worm teeth of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A within the worms of Japanese Pat. 2-14921 so as to have a varied engagement of the worm with the worm

Art Unit: 3682

wheel, thereby allowing for the optimal transfer of force between a worm/worm wheel engagement, given the intended use.

Claims 1, 2, and 5, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Pat. 2-14921, in view of Falk (US Pat. 4,093,052), and further in view of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A.

Japanese Pat. 2-14921 discloses a dividing head comprising a circular table (exposed outer portion of 1 as seen in figure 3) attached to a worm wheel shaft, said worm wheel shaft having at least one worm wheel assembled thereon (fig. 5), a worm with a drive shaft, said shaft supported by thrust bearings 5 on a frame.

However, Japanese Pat. 2-14921 does not disclose the worm bodies being adjustable or the worm teeth formed such that the thickness dimension of said teeth gradually increases in the direction of the rotation axis of a drive shaft.

Falk (US Pat. 4,093,052) discloses a hollow body 25;

a drive shaft 26 fitted into a hollow portion of said body, and an assembler 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 16, 27, 30 having an annular portion which is coaxial with said drive shaft to couple both by frictional engagement, said body being able to rotate relative to said drive shaft and able to move in the axial direction relative to said drive shaft;

said assembler includes a cylinder 11, 12, 13, 14 which forms said annular portion, the cylinder being disposed between said body and said drive shaft, having a fluid reservoir in an interior of the cylinder, and being expandable with the outer periphery and the inner periphery of

Art Unit: 3682

said cylinder displaced outwardly and inwardly in the radial direction by the pressure of the reservoir fluid (fig. 3);

a flange 16 integrally following one end of said cylinder and having a screw hole (around part 30) connected to said reservoir;

and a screw member 30 screwable into said screw hole; and

wherein said body has a fitting hole for receiving said cylinder, the fitting hole having a larger diameter than that of said drive shaft in an axial position corresponding to said body's outer circumference (fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the coupling and uncoupling means of Falk (US Pat. 4,093,052) on all of the worm bodies within worm gear assembly of Kitagawa (US Pat. 5,188,004) so as allow for general uncoupling and uncoupling of torque transmitting elements wherein large changes in temperature fluxuations have less impact on the performance of said elements, as suggested by Falk (US Pat. 4,093,052).

Furthermore, Japanese Pat. 411020723 A discloses a worm with teeth formed such that the thickness dimension of said teeth gradually increases in the direction of the rotation axis of a drive shaft.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the worm teeth of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A within the worms of Japanese Pat. 2-14921 so as to have a varied engagement of the worm with the worm wheel, thereby allowing for the optimal transfer of force between a worm/worm wheel engagement, given the intended use.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that it would not have been obvious to combine Japanese Pat. 2-14921, in view of German Pat. 743560, and further in view of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A and Japanese Pat. 2-14921, in view of Falk (US Pat. 4,093,052), and further in view of Japanese Pat. 411020723 A, respectively, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

In response to applicant's argument that "there is no description about, to prevent this displacement, making the worm and the worm shaft separate bodies and, fitting the worm rotatably and movable in the axial direction of the worm shaft", the fact that applicant has

Art Unit: 3682

recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

In response to applicant's argument that "DE '530 and Falk", are nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the coupling and uncoupling means of DE '530 or Falk are clearly in the field of applicant endeavor given there purposes are to non-rotatably fix a body to a rotating shaft and then allow uncoupling of said components.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MEP. 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile

Art Unit: 3682

transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MEP. 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on _____

(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MEP. 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the

Art Unit: 3682


processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Colby Hansen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday from 7:30 PM to 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci, can be reached on (571) 272-7099. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Colby M. Hansen


Patent Examiner

8/17/05


DAVID FENSTERMACHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 8/19/05